

# FAA News

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## **FAA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR ITS DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY ON O'HARE MODERNIZATION**

CHICAGO, March 8, 2005 -- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has granted a two-week extension for public comment on its Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed modernization of O'Hare International Airport. The new deadline is April 6.

"We want to offer every opportunity for the public to comment on our draft environmental analysis," said Barry Cooper, manager of the FAA's Chicago Area Modernization Program Office, which coordinates the FAA's efforts on the proposed O'Hare project. "The draft EIS has been available for public viewing since Jan. 13, however, since we received requests for an extension, we decided to lengthen it two weeks. With this extension, the public will have had 84 days to study this document, nearly double the required 45-day period."

Individuals and organizations are encouraged to submit their comments on the FAA's draft EIS by fax at (847) 294-7046 and by e-mail at [OMPEIS@faa.gov](mailto:OMPEIS@faa.gov). Written comments may also be mailed to:

Michael W. MacMullen, Airports Environmental Program Manager  
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Chicago Airports District Office  
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The public can view the FAA's draft EIS during regular business hours at 33 library locations in Chicago and the suburbs. In addition, for the past 18 months, the FAA has operated two web sites to provide the public with early access to key information about the FAA's analysis of the O'Hare project prior to the release of the draft EIS. These websites, which include documents on which the draft EIS is based, are the FAA's O'Hare EIS website, [www.ompeis.net](http://www.ompeis.net), and the FAA's O'Hare Document Library file sharing site, [www.agl.faa.gov/OMP/](http://www.agl.faa.gov/OMP/). The FAA has posted more than 7.6 million pages of documents about the O'Hare project on these two public web sites.

After the FAA reviews all public comments, it will respond to them in a final EIS followed by a Record of Decision.

"Our overall timetable for the O'Hare project remains on track," Cooper said. "We still expect to release the final EIS by the end of July, and we plan to release the Record of Decision in September."